

How to prepare students to stand against the prosperity gospel

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Introduction

- Many of our students come from churches influenced by prosperity gospel teaching. How do we help them stand against this false teaching and be rooted in the biblical gospel?

A. What is the prosperity gospel?

- “It is a ‘gospel’ claiming freedom from sickness, poverty, and all suffering on the basis of Christ’s death on the cross. Promising material, physical, and visible blessings for all who would embrace it, the prosperity gospel insists that God’s will is for his children to prosper here and now.” (Mbugua)
- It is transactional in nature – it is conditional, works-based ‘gospel’.
- Origins of the prosperity gospel: E.W. Kenyon, pantheism, Gnosticism, paganism.

B. What are the claims of the prosperity gospel?

- God wants you to be rich.
- God wants you to be healthy.
- God wants you to be happy.
- Accessing these claims? Word of Faith.
- Overall analysis of prosperity teaching: a false gospel.

C. How do we equip our students to stand against it?

- Reformed theology is uniquely able to equip students against this. How?
- Our Commitment to the Word of God.
- The True Gospel.
- The Sovereignty of God.
- A Theology of Suffering.
- Covenant Theology.
- The Atonement of Christ.
- Eschatology.

Questions and discussion.